



CAMBRIDGE PHILATELIC SOCIETY  
**JULY 2017 NEWSLETTER** ISSUE 94

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The sponsor for our newsletter which we gained in August 2014 has very kindly agreed to renew the sponsorship for a further period of twelve months through to August 2017. Members are encouraged to contact our sponsor for advice as detailed above.

The editor will try to publish newsletters on a three monthly basis. Newsletters since that for the August 2014 edition are also available as a pdf file from the Society website. A new section "5" on the Society web site has been designed to accommodate this.

## INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the summer 2017 newsletter, which is appearing a little later than anticipated. We have continued with our 2016/2017 programme which as anticipated is turning out to be very varied and also very interesting. Our thanks are due to **Richard Husband**, our former Programme Secretary, who has organised this for the Society, although the day to day administration is now with **Rufus Barnes**.

From time to time we have to make changes to our published programme on the blue cards. However, the editor tries to keep the programme details on the Society's web site always up to date; this can be found at; - [www.cambridgephilatelicsociety.co.uk](http://www.cambridgephilatelicsociety.co.uk)

If any member is on email, and has not received this newsletter by email, but would be happy to receive future newsletters and communications by email then would you please let the secretary know at; [info@cambridgephilatelicsociety.co.uk](mailto:info@cambridgephilatelicsociety.co.uk) ; this will help save on both postage and paper costs.

## MEMBERS' NEWS

Both **Rufus Barnes** and **Graham Wylde** represented Cambridge P S by displaying at Sudbury P S at the end of April.

**Rufus Barnes** gave a display of Christmas Island and Easter Island on 26th May to Letchworth Stamp Club, being part of the North Herts Group.



**Peter Morton** gave a display of part of the CPS forgeries collection 6th June to Stevenage Stamp Club, being part of the North Herts Group.

**Simon Kelly** gave a short display of the Cumbrian town of Hawkshead to the Society of Postal Historians at Cockermouth at the end of June.

### **Wednesday 5th April**

#### **ANOTHER BLOODY RAILWAY-PART 2**

We welcomed **Peter Pugh** for another episode about railways. His main theme was British mail by the Siberian route from the east coast of China. Besides the detailed history of the region in the early 1900's many different covers were shown, in addition to photographs of the locomotives involved, and track damage, a lot caused by war or internal revolution. Wei Hai Wei was an important place for the railway; differences in how the mail was managed were highlighted when it was subsequently returned to the Chinese in the 1930.

### **Friday 21st April**

#### **BORDER CHANGES IN THE BALTIC DURING WORLD WAR II**

We gave a warm welcome to **Rex Dixon**. We were given a detailed history of the region in particular Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and also the town of Vilnius in Russia, {and also when it was part of Lithuania} and the many changes which took place in respect of treatment of the postal services. Many covers were in evidence in particular liberation type caches, fieldpost, propaganda, and registered covers as well as parcel cards. The importance of Danzig was shown and also covers showing different postal rates which varied depending upon which countries' stamps were used.

### **Wednesday 3rd May**

#### **BRITISH BORNEO: TRAINS, PLANES AND STAMPS**

We gave a very warm welcome to **Jon Higgins** from King's Lynn. The evening commenced with the development of the rail network in Brunei, Sarawak and North Borneo, and in particular the Sabah Railway. Photographs of the rolling stock and locomotives were in evidence and the various covers which were taken by rail. The impact of Japanese Occupation, the subsequent change of North Borneo to a Crown Colony and the progressive change from steam locomotives to diesel were shown.

The first airport appeared in 1939 when Imperial Airways commenced services in the region. Flown covers are quite scarce; various photographs were displayed and also a flight cover.

The classic stamps of Labuan were shown with the 1879 De La Rue issue. Various proofs, specimens and cancelled sets were shown, some of which were unique. Examples of the first killer cancellations were displayed, a rare 8c sheet of stamps, colour trials, high value stamps and also manuscript overprints.



### Friday 19th May

#### MEMBERS' EVENING; 1951-2000

**Mike Bavin** started the evening with various covers including one from Guildford, one from Greece, a 1987 Lichtenstein cover and a 1984 cover from Kula Lumpur. **Ray Revell** showed various stamps from Sierra Leone including the Royal Yacht visit, Independence issue, the first freeform stamps and the decimal currency provisionals. **Rufus Barnes** displayed a mixture of items on the theme of postage dues and markings re postage due, including 5d postage due mark on 1976 Belgium cover, 18p due but not collected on French cover, and also various covers clearly indicating that underpaid postage due was not collected. **Keith Weston** put up various stamps from French Polynesia which covered reproduction paintings, ancient Polynesian art and the discovery by the French. **Richard Husband** displayed various items in connection with the GB 1964 Shakespeare Festival issue, including printing varieties and colour shades.

In the second half **John Towler** showed items from Fiji including the first franked air letters, and various aerogrammes, ending with the 1979 redesigned portraits of the queen. **Peter Morton** followed with the first regional machins produced by Harrisons for Isle of Man, Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales which included many phosphor band varieties and missing phosphor. **Simon Kelly** then displayed the 1964 QE II definitives from the Bahamas which included covers, differences in printing positions and single stamps and blocks.

### Wednesday 7th June

#### MAINLY BLACK

Our thanks are due to our member **Mike Brindle** for a most interesting evening. He commenced by asking what is "black" as different parties have different ideas. He highlighted differences in colour definition between two leading catalogue specialists covering the same stamps. Early stamp printings were shown with black on a light background, such as cream or white and then black on a coloured background, generally red or yellow. The development of black on postage stamps was shown with black being used for masonry, mourning issues, coal mining subjects, and also undesirable subjects. Black was also used very often for postage due stamps and for proofs. With many commonwealth stamps black was used as a key type. Examples of overprints both in black and red were shown.

In the second half stamps from specific countries were shown which demonstrated the progression of how black was used for stamp production. Many countries such as USA, France and Czechoslovakia used black on the early issues, and indeed GB with the 1d black. The trend to use black on higher values was demonstrated such as £1 PUC GB issue. Many examples of black used on GB issues were displayed and how printing methods developed.



### **Friday 16th June**

#### **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Reports were received from the main areas of the Society on the events and work of the past year. Cups and trophies were presented to the various competition winners; please see the new 2017-2018 programme card for full details.

The officers of the society were duly re-elected. Though Rufus Barnes had indicated he wanted to stand down as Programme Secretary, in the absence of any volunteer for the role, he did indicate that he would continue but only until the 2018 AGM.

### **Wednesday 5th July**

#### **SOCIETY DINNER**

Twenty five members including partners and guests enjoyed a very good dinner at the Arundel House Hotel, Cambridge. It was a very informal enabling those present to chat to those sitting nearby.

#### **FUTURE MEETINGS**

The 2016-2017 programme continues with the following meetings.

### **Friday 21st July**

#### **MEMBERS' EVENING; SHOW WHAT YOU LIKE**

### **Wednesday 2nd August**

#### **FINLAND; FIELDPOST, MARITIME AND RAILWAYS; ERIC KEEFE**

### **Friday 18th August**

#### **AUSTRALIAN STATES; DAVID GOTTESMANN**

#### **OTHER MATTERS**

##### **MID ANGLIA PHILATELIC FEDERATION**

Full details of events, contacts and recent newsletters appear on the federation website; [www.mapf.co.uk](http://www.mapf.co.uk)

I felt quite sure that this year Cambridge P S would face very stiff competition from King's Lynn P S. Indeed this has proved to be the case. Cambridge came second with 249 points and King's Lynn won the Millenium Trophy with 260 points. Can I comment that two or three years ago a score of 230 points would have won the inter society competition. Indeed Cambridge last year scored 236 points to come first which at that time was the highest mark ever achieved.

PJM 18th JULY 2017

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